

1

Capture



You
Are
Here

Rood Center

raingardens

bioswale

..... Blue lines show areas of runoff that drain into the raingardens and the bioswale.

Two **raingardens** and a **bioswale** capture and clean runoff from these parking lots. The runoff is filtered by the soil and slowly released into the groundwater. It is used by plants and people downslope in Nevada City.

Rain that falls on normal pavement rushes downhill and will leave our community within hours. The pervious pavement you are standing on is different. Water soaks into this pavement and follows its slow, natural flow through the ground.

Here is an experiment for you: Pour water from your water bottle onto this pervious pavement. Then try the same thing on the regular pavement. Do you notice a difference? Remember, soaking up water and preventing runoff is a good thing!

For every **inch** of rain, the raingardens and bioswale together capture **50,000 gallons** of stormwater. That's **1,000 full bathtubs**. Each year more than **3 million gallons** of water will be put back into the ground by these landscape features.

4 Resources

- For more information, take a brochure and check out:

www.AmericanRivers.org/NCRaingarden

Learn what you can do around your home, as well as what others are doing to improve stormwater management and keep our rivers flowing clean.

- Do your gutter downspouts drain into the sewer or roadway? Save this water either with a rainbarrel or raingarden. See storm drains as threats to our clean water.
- Paving the driveway or planning a patio? Use a porous product (like the pervious pavement you are standing on) to capture rain where it falls. See paved surfaces as barriers to watering the soil and replenishing groundwater.
- Walk your property in the driving rain. Where water spills into the yard, soak it up with a swale like the Permaculturists do and water your down-slope lands.



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Sign and Brochure Design by: www.davidwellner.com
Sign Fabrication: Ace Welding
Sign Printing: Grass Valley Sign

3

Release



Rood Center

Drain Pipe



Nevada City



Deer Creek

WITHOUT

THE RAINGARDENS AND THE BIOSWALE—Parking lot runoff carries pollutants such as oil, antifreeze and heavy metals, directly into Deer Creek.

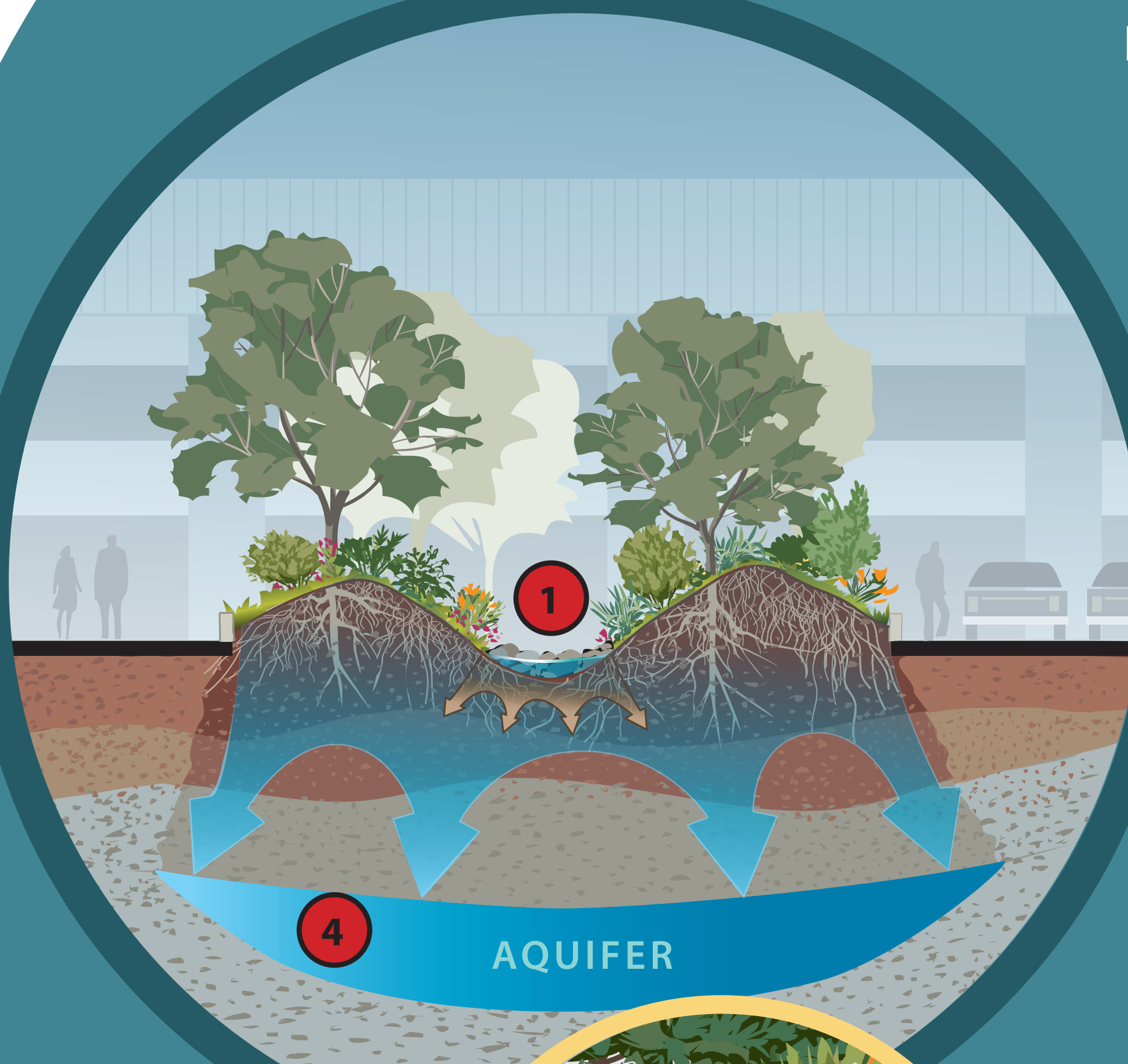
WITH

THE RAINGARDENS AND THE BIOSWALE—The captured stormwater is filtered and cleaned by the soil. It enters the aquifer and flows slowly downhill, watering our plants along the way and replenishing Deer Creek in the summer and fall when water is most needed. Water that is not used locally feeds the Yuba River downstream, passes through the salmon-rearing habitat of the Sacramento Delta, and eventually flows out to sea.

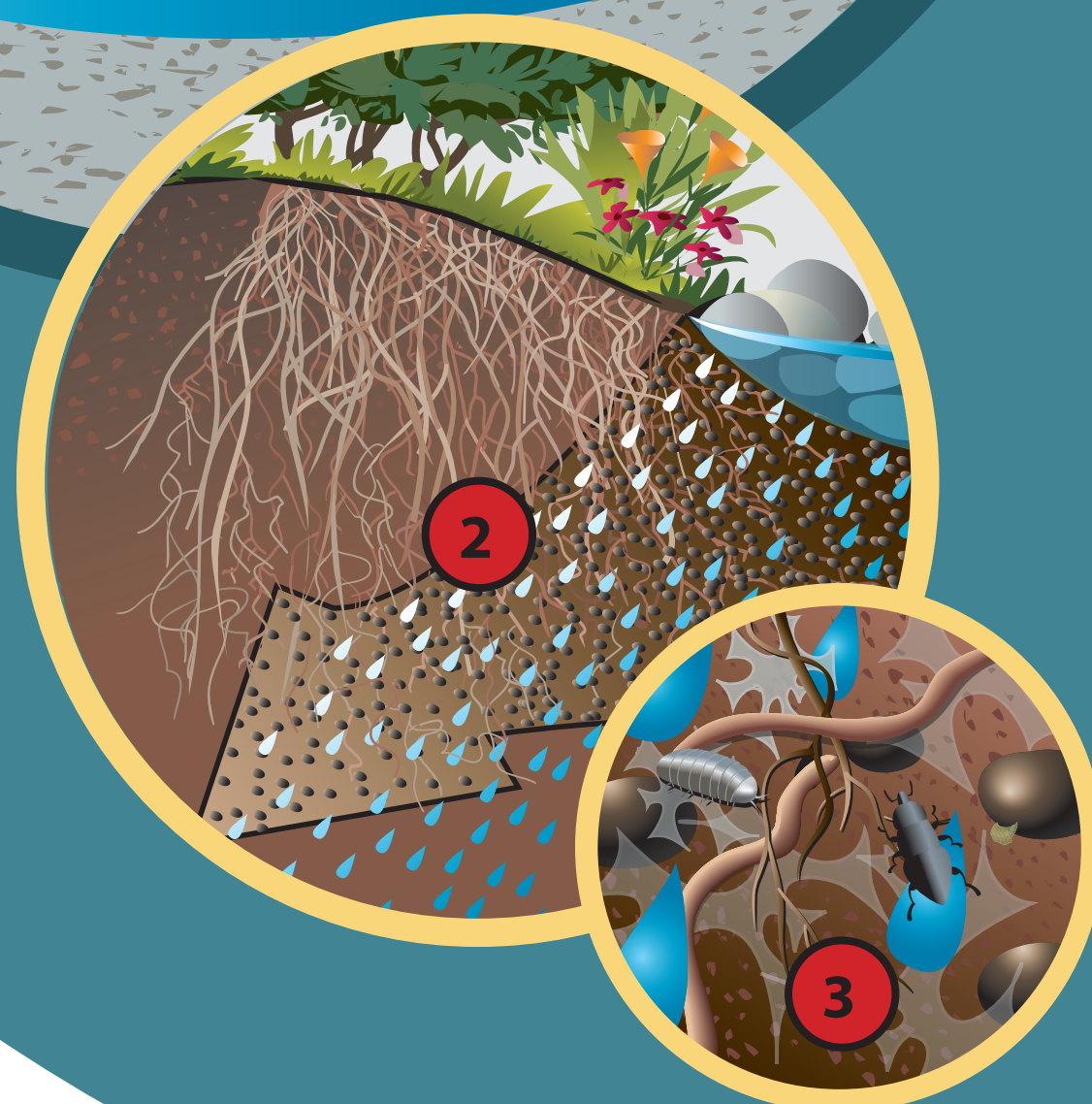
AQUIFER

2 Filter

Raingardens are called **green infrastructure** because they harness beneficial natural processes. Let's break it down:



- 1 Water is channeled into the low areas of the raingarden or bioswale. Roots stabilize the soil and open pathways for water to soak in.
- 2 Pollutants are filtered out as the water soaks into the soil.
- 3 Living creatures within the soil keep it porous and fertile. Microbes are the powerhouse of the soil, even breaking down oil and gasoline. Indigestible pollutants, such as heavy metals, bind to soil particles and are locked away in the upper layers of the soil.
- 4 Water that soaks in joins the groundwater and replenishes our aquifers.



*One teaspoon of soil can contain **1 billion** beneficial bacteria.*